



**Hoko River State Park
Initial Public Access Development Planning
Final Report – July 29, 2004**

Preface

In summer 2003, Washington State Parks Director Rex Derr committed agency staff to conduct an abbreviated, low-cost planning effort aimed at protecting park resources and developing initial public access to Hoko River State Park. In February 2004, agency staff held a public workshop and met with representatives of other government agencies, Indian Tribes, and the Clallam Bay – Sekiu community to learn more about the park's potential role in the region and to discuss initial steps towards eventual development and operation of the park. This draft report summarizes what staff learned and suggests short-term measures to enhance public use and protection of this valuable park holding. It is not intended to set a long-term vision for what the park might ultimately become, nor to launch extensive development of the park facilities.

Staff hopes park stakeholders will review this document, note any errors, omissions, or concerns and provide the agency with comments. We will then incorporate feedback into a finalized report to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for review and discussion at its scheduled August 12, 2004 meeting in Port Angeles. Copies of the final report will be available approximately two weeks before the August Commission meeting.

Project Basis and Purpose



Public Planning Workshop, February 11, 2004

The seeds of a State Parks presence on the North Olympic Peninsula were planted in the mid 1970's with purchase of 21 acres at the Point of the Arches, south of the Makah Indian Reservation, in 1974. During this period, the agency also began acquisition of a series of properties along the north shore on the Clallam Bay spit that, through an agreement with Clallam County Parks, would ultimately become part of the County-operated Clallam Bay Park.

Visions of a destination state park in the region began to take shape in 1990 and 1991 with the agency's purchase of the 33-acre Elizabeth Hoyt property and the 522-acre

Cowan Ranch life estate – both a few miles west of Sekiu (Figure 1). John Cowan's later donation of 55 acres at Eagle Point in 1993, agency acquisition of additional land at Eagle Point in 1995, and purchase and transfer of the 115-acre Hoko River Estuary property from the non-profit organization River Network in 1998 continued to add significant natural resource and recreational value to the growing collection of State Parks holdings in the region.

The death of John Cowan in the spring of 2000 ended the term of his life estate. On taking possession of the ranch, State Parks stationed staff at the ranch to provide security and routine maintenance. Staff continues to remove debris and temporarily shore-up structures, but essentially

the ranch remains in a “held for future development” status. The park has received no state capital investment other than in acquisition of property.

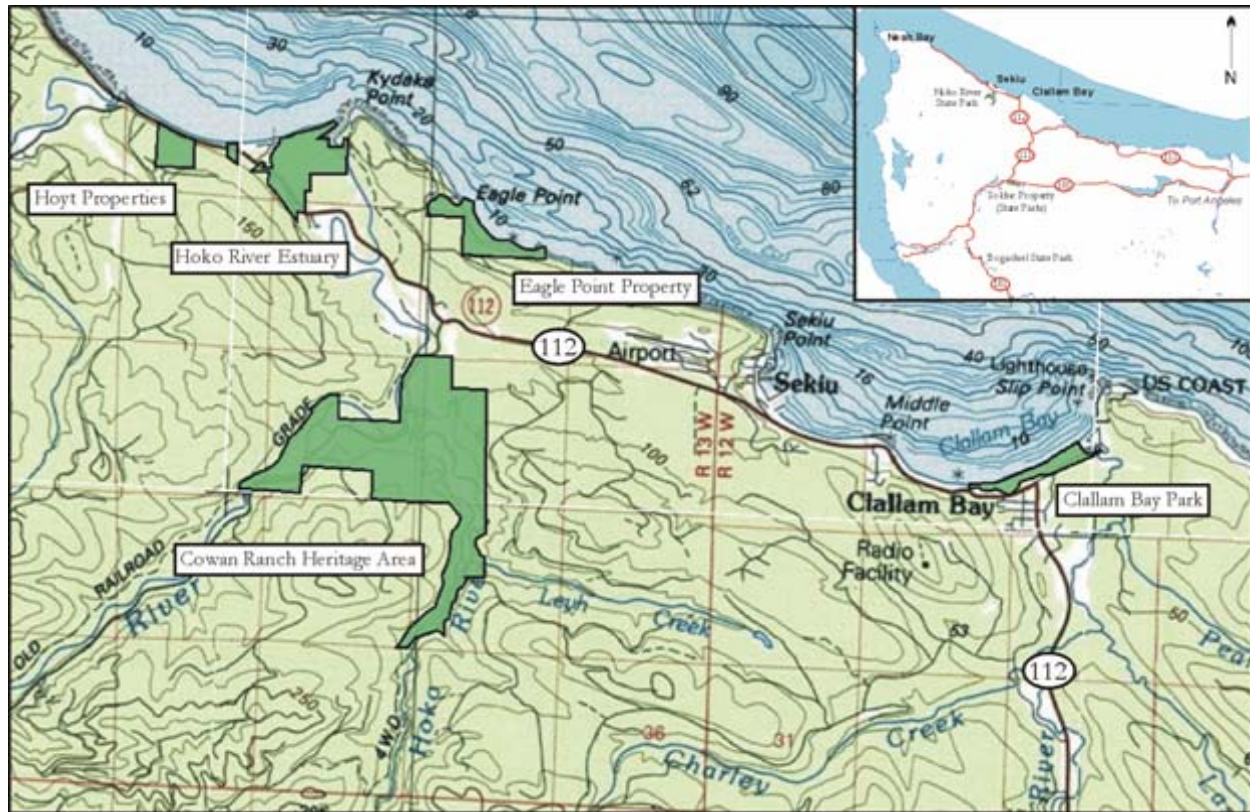


Figure 1: Hoko River State Park Properties

As the north Olympic Peninsula’s traditionally resource-based economy continues to struggle, communities are turning increasingly to tourism as a means towards economic sustainability. Members of the Clallam Bay – Sekiu Community Advisory Council, recognizing the role a major destination state park could play in a tourism-based economy, initially contacted State Parks in the winter of 2002 to jumpstart planning and development of Hoko River State Park. Since then, members of the Clallam Bay – Sekiu Chamber of Commerce and other community leaders continue to advocate development of even modest public access as an enhancement to the region’s tourism draw.

Responding to the Clallam Bay – Sekiu community’s partnership offer, State Parks Director Rex Derr agreed to commit agency staff to an abbreviated, low-cost planning effort for Hoko River State Park.

The overarching purpose of this report is to:

- Describe what agency staff has learned about the Hoko River State Park and the north Olympic Peninsula region through this abbreviated planning process;
- Identify short-term actions the agency and local partners might take to develop initial public access and protect park resources;
- Identify a wide range of long-term park use and development considerations; and
- Describe next steps in the planning and development process.

Park Regional Context

Physical Setting

Washington State residents generally characterize the northwest Olympic Peninsula as a remote and perhaps “climatically challenged” outpost of the State. With winter temperatures in the 30’s and 40’s and an average 85 inches of annual rainfall, the region’s inhabitants are a hearty lot, indeed. On the other hand, inhospitable climate has protected the region from the press of residential and urban development and left a scenic mosaic of sparsely populated mountain, forest, rugged beach, and pastoral landscapes.

While national park and national forest status mostly protect the Olympic Peninsula’s alpine and sub-alpine areas from permanent conversion, signs of human activity appear more frequently at lower elevations. Lowland landscapes range from relatively undisturbed natural forests with streams, rivers, and interspersed lakes and wetlands to second growth forests, clear-cuts, cleared pastures, rural dwellings and small hamlets. Most settlements on the northwest peninsula reflect their historic reliance on water travel and are located near sheltered harbors at Neah Bay, Sekiu, Clallam Bay, and Pysht. Large intervening stretches of coastline remain largely in their natural state, interrupted only sporadically with residences.

The federal government holds by far the largest land block on the Olympic Peninsula with over 2 million acres included in Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest. To the north, the State Department of Natural Resources manages approximately 200,000 acres of state trust lands (total ownership in Clallam County). The Makah Indian Reservation on the northwest tip of the peninsula includes another 27,000 acres, while private timber companies hold remaining larger tracts of forestlands.

U.S. Highway 101 circles the Olympic Mountains and from it State Route 112 provides primary highway access to the northwest peninsula and its unincorporated towns. The U.S. Department of Transportation recently designated SR 112 as a National Scenic Byway in further recognition of the region’s outstanding scenic beauty.

Historical Context

The Northwest Olympic Peninsula holds a rich and diverse cultural heritage that includes histories of Native Americans and later European explorers, traders, and settlers. Capturing this colorful and often conflicted history is impossible in a few short pages. This summarized history below is intended only to provide general historical context.

Prior to European contact, people of the Makah and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes inhabited and frequented areas on the northwest Olympic Peninsula. According to maps included in Erna Gunther’s 1927 *Ethnography of the Klallam People*, the Xal nant, Xo ku, and Pic villages – all Klallam – were located at the sites of present-day Clallam Bay, Sekiu, and Pysht. The Makah generally remained on the Olympic Peninsula traveling to Hoko, Sekiu, Clallam Bay, Pysht, and the Lyre River at various times of year. The Lower Elwha Klallam were closely tied to other Central

Coast Salish bands on the eastern Olympic peninsula and across the Strait of Juan de Fuca to Vancouver Island and the San Juan and Gulf Islands.



"Bird's-eye view of Makah potlatch gathering on Tatoosh Island, Washington," 1895, University of Washington Libraries. Manuscripts, Special Collection, University Archives Division.

Significant European trade with the Makah and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes developed in the latter part of the 1700's with the arrival of fur trading ships on the Northwest Coast. Trade with Europeans brought wealth to the highly skilled Indian hunters, fishers, and whalers, but also unleashed devastating epidemics on previously isolated populations. By the 1850s, smallpox, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases had killed thousands of people and aspects of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural practices were lost.

In 1855, representatives of the Makah Tribe under threat of military force signed a treaty with the United States government, ceding 300,000 acres of land in exchange for the right

to continue whaling, sealing, fishing, and retaining other specific rights. The Treaty of Neah Bay also created the Makah Indian Reservation. During the same year, leaders of the Klallam bands signed the Point No Point Treaty, ceding lands to the United States in exchange for similar rights and creating the Skokomish Reservation. Klallam tribe members, not on friendly terms with the Skokomish, chose to remain in their traditional fishing areas in an unprotected status instead of relocating to the Skokomish Reservation. The Jamestown Klallam ultimately succeeded in purchasing land for their community near Dungeness in 1874 while the U.S. Government purchased lands for the Lower Elwha Klallam and Port Gamble S'Klallam reservations in the mid 1930's.

Ratified treaties with the Makah and Klallam opened large tracts of land to homesteading and land claims for logging and mining. Commerce on both land and water supported the founding of East and West Clallam in 1870 and 1890 respectively. West Clallam, renamed Sekiu, originally served as a salmon cannery and later housed a tanning distillery that supplied the successful fur trading industry. East Clallam, now Clallam Bay, was founded as a timber mill town and produced barrels for the tanning distillery.

The Federal Government established the Olympic Forest Preserve in 1889, encompassing 1.5 million acres of the interior peninsula to retain control over the peninsula's valuable timber resources. Designation of the Reserve changed to National Forest in 1905 with its central core designated Mount Olympus National Monument in 1909. The National Park Service received transfer of the national monument in 1933 and Olympic National Park was later



"Two Klallam boys carrying clams on an Olympic Peninsula beach," 1939, Seattle Post-Intelligencer Collection, Museum of History and Industry, Seattle

formally designated in 1938. Since then Olympic National Park has grown to about 1.5 million acres surrounded by the 632,000-acre Olympic National Forest.

At the turn of the century, decline in the fur trade and obsolescence of tanning distilleries devastated the local economy. This period established logging and commercial fishing as the north Olympic Peninsula's economic mainstay. Construction of SR 112 in 1931 created a highway linking remote northern peninsula communities with market centers in the central Puget Sound region. Completion of SR 112 also expanded tourism-related travel to the northern peninsula providing additional access to Olympic National Park and saltwater sport fishing in the western Strait of Juan de Fuca.

In 1985, the Washington State Department of Corrections constructed the Clallam Bay Corrections Center south of the Clallam Bay – Sekiu community. The correctional facility created hundreds of new jobs and has since become Clallam County's largest single employer. While these jobs added some economic stability to the region, depletion of forest resources and a shift towards more protective forest policy and practices has dramatically contracted the region's timber industry. A parallel dynamic has resulted in a similar contraction in the region's commercial and sport fisheries.

Economic Context

The resource-based economy of the northwest Olympic Peninsula has experienced cycles of boom and bust since trade between Makah and Europeans began in the late 1700's. At its inception, the fur trade created significant wealth for many Tribe members. However, enormous demand eventually depleted seal and sea otter populations. The halting of whaling and sealing by the Makahs in the early 1900's followed a similar period of resource depletion. The Makah economy then turned to commercial fishing and forestry, but these industries, too, have declined significantly in the past few decades.

In 1979, the Makah Tribe developed its Cultural and Research Center to display archaeological artifacts retrieved from a whaling village partially buried in a mudslide about 300-500 years ago. Construction of the impressive center and the booming sport fishery solidified the Neah Bay area as a tourism destination and provided welcome economic gains. Since then, controversy surrounding resumption of whale hunting has rekindled international interest in the Makah people at the same time when *cultural tourism* is rapidly gaining popularity throughout the world. Still the unemployment rate on the reservation hovers around 51%, with about 49% of tribal members earning income below the poverty level.

The economy beyond the Makah reservation has undergone similar boom/bust cycles, principally related to depletion of resources and changes in forestry and fishing policies and regulations. The fur trade dominated the white settler economy, as it had the economy of the Makah. Early companies distilled hemlock bark into fur tanning compounds and produced barrels for shipping. As the fur trade subsided, forestry and commercial fishing became mainstay industries. However, as mentioned earlier, these industries have steadily declined in the past few decades. Current unemployment in Clallam County stands at 7.4% with the northwest peninsula probably much higher. The Clallam Bay Corrections Center employs the largest single workforce with about 400 full-time staff.

As logging and fishing continue to decline in economic importance, government and community leaders are increasingly emphasizing tourism as a means towards economic recovery and stability. The push to designate the SR 112 National Scenic Byway in 2000 provides a recent example of the region's desire to promote itself as a tourist destination. Many small, family-owned service businesses continue to rely on summer tourism to stay solvent through the winter months.

Embracing the tourism approach, the Clallam Bay – Sekiu Community Advisory Council and Clallam Bay-Sekiu Chamber of Commerce recently identified Hoko River State Park as a potential tourist destination. These groups strongly advocate park development and continue to encourage and offer assistance to our agency's planning and development efforts. However, as with other "park communities," many business owners insist that publicly funded park facilities not compete directly with existing private accommodations and amenities. Others maintain that high visibility state parks don't really take away visitors from existing business, but actually attract new visitors – not just to the park, but to local accommodations and other spin-off businesses.

State Parks increasingly shares concern about limits on competition with the private sector. Through recent budget cycles, the State Legislature called on the agency to generate an increasing share of its costs through fees and other revenue generating entrepreneurial activities. By definition, this means competition with the private sector. If local constituencies refuse development of amenities that generate adequate revenue, the State Parks and Recreation Commission may elect not to pursue park development at all – or at least not until economic conditions improve. Successful park development will depend on a clear understanding about the needs of both the agency and local communities and a willingness to find compromise.

Sources:

Makah Indian Nation Website, 2003

Washington State Governor's Office of Indian Affairs Website, Official Statement of Jamestown Klallam Tribe, 1997

Treaty of Neah Bay, 1855

Treaty of Point No Point, 1855

Olympic National Forest Website, 2000

Olympic National Park Website,

Clallam Bay – Sekiu Chamber of Commerce Website, 2003

University of Washington Libraries, American Indians of the Pacific Northwest Digital Collection, 2000

Klallam Ethnography, Erna Gunther, University of Washington Press, 1927

Park Property Descriptions

Cowan Ranch Heritage Area



Barn at Cowan Ranch, 2004

The Cowan Ranch Heritage Area is about 522 acres in size, most of it considered an intact historic cultural landscape. This includes pastures, ranch buildings, and other developments associated with its ranching history. Forested areas of the park include primarily second growth timber ranging from approximately 20 to 50 years in age. The property features over 18,000 feet of freshwater shoreline on the Hoko and Little Hoko rivers. A multi-agency partnership has restored elements of the natural vegetation and stream components in riparian areas of the Little Hoko River. Park staff has allowed some pasture in the Little Hoko drainage to

revert to forest, but future efforts will likely include maintaining open pasture for elk wintering areas and retention of the cultural landscape. A proposed agency Centennial Project will restore about 23 acres of horse pasture along the main Hoko River to forested riparian habitat. Several wetland areas have naturally emerged in ranch pastures. Future stewardship activities will explore options for protecting these wetlands.

The Cowan Ranch Heritage Area has a rich human history. From early maps, it appears that people of both the Makah and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes frequented the area. State Parks has not fully documented aboriginal use of the property, but it likely was an important site for hunting (mainly deer, elk, and bear) and fishing the rivers. The area likely also supported plant gathering for subsistence and various cultural purposes.

George Lamb constructed the original ranch and ranch house in 1907. Lamb sold the ranch to John K. Cowan in 1918 when John M. Cowan, the most recent owner, was only five years old. John M., brother Norman, and their sisters Garnet and Thelma continued to work the land, clearing additional pasture along the Hoko and Little Hoko Rivers, and ran a highly successful dairy and supplied milk, cream and meat to local markets, logging camps, and far away Seattle.



Pasture at Cowan Ranch, 2004

A unique assemblage of historic artifacts, buildings, fences and vegetation remains at the site today. State Parks leases pastures around the main ranch buildings for grazing – principally to maintain the ranch's agrarian cultural landscape. Park visitors currently use the park for fishing,

walking/hiking, cycling, and enjoying pastoral scenery. Traditionally the Cowans permitted horseback riding on ranch roads and trails.

Eagle Point Property



Beach at Eagle Point, 2004

The Eagle Point Property covers about 55 acres with 3,450 feet of saltwater frontage along the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Early succession forest dominated by red alder forms the site's primary vegetation cover indicating relatively recent logging activity. However, numerous evergreens of intermixed young western hemlock and larger conifers north of the old railroad grade and east of the point itself remain. The entire area is significantly disturbed with several instances of mass wasting associated with drainage and water movement from adjoining logged lands. The portion of the property below (north of) the old railroad grade is steep and densely

covered with salmon berry and red alder.

An old logging railroad grade popular for hiking and cycling bisects the Eagle Point property. Some old machinery remains on the site, providing evidence of past logging activities. The archaeology of this property has not been investigated.

Currently the property sees use mostly by hikers and cyclists with some illegal use by motorized ATVs occurring sporadically. The rocky point provides a wonderful view of the strait and nearby shorelines. Several mass wasting events have made passage on the old railroad grade more difficult.

The Eagle Point property is also used to access shore fishing off the rocky point. Fishers string ropes down steep slopes and rock faces to make their way to the shore. This has unfortunately led to significant erosion. Park staff continues to remove ropes, but they are quickly replaced.



Railroad grade landslide at Eagle Point, 2004

Hoyt Property



Hoyt Beach, 2004

This 33-acre parcel has 1,520 feet of saltwater frontage along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and easy access to a wonderful sand beach. Older second growth timber covers uplands and provides refuge for deer and elk in an otherwise heavily logged region. The terrain is steep with wet seeps at the toe of the slope. The northeast corner of the property includes a short stretch of forested saltwater frontage. Disturbed uplands of the property will ultimately develop into a significant stand of near-coast timber and could potentially provide nest sites for murrelets, eagles, and other bird species.

With the exception of some evidence of logging, few signs of human activity physically remain on the site. The terrain and proximity to the mouth of the Hoko River indicate likely archaeological deposits on the lower portions of the property, although post-contact logging and road building may have caused serious disturbance. Future work in cooperation with the Makah and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes may reveal the type and extent of these deposits.

The property is a popular stop along the road between Clallam Bay/Seki and Neah Bay. It provides beach combing, walking and scenic views and has great potential for a more formalized wayside.

Clallam Bay Park

Clallam Bay Park is located within a very dynamic river estuary system. It is comprised of approximately 39 acres of land, most of which is the bar formed by long-shore processes in concert with riverine processes at the mouth of the Clallam River. Small-scale manual dredging of the river mouth stabilized the bar for many years. Recently this annual effort was abandoned in response to fisheries concerns and attendant permitting difficulties. The estuary itself is highly productive and hosts several species of salmonids



Clallam Bay Park, Managed by Clallam County Parks

as well as numerous other vertebrate species that take advantage of the bar-bound period to predate young fish. A relatively healthy coastal shoreline community made up of native dunegrass (*Leymus mollis*) and other native species covers the west end of the bar. The forested part of the bar; however, has been seriously impacted by recent flood episodes and erosion.

Looking westward from the bar access bridge, visitors can see remains of a resort once located on the bar. This includes remnant roadway, waterlines that have eroded out of the bank and large logs that were cabled into the bank years ago to protect the site from erosion. Pilings from an old pier east of the bridge and from the old resort bridge are plainly visible. At one point, a corduroy road ran along the bar but no evidence of it remains.

This is one of the most popular beach access points on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The property lies within the town of Clallam Bay and is popular for beach combing, dog walking picnicking, kite flying and other passive uses. Clallam County operates the park under an agreement with Washington State Parks.

Hoko River Estuary



Beach at Hoko River Estuary Property, 2004

The 115-acre Hoko River Estuary property includes virtually all of the high quality estuary system at the mouth of the Hoko River. Back channels provide excellent habitat for salmonid rearing and migration. Much of the property was logged within the last 20 years and is now in early successional red alder and salmon berry. Undisturbed portions near the mouth have some significant sitka spruce and western hemlock stands. Part of the property is

currently undergoing study of the way estuary lands recover from disturbance events.

The central portion of the property provides ample evidence of early European settlement. Signs include a shelter of some type, garden plots, and non-indigenous trees and plants normally associated with homesteads. Archaeological deposits are likely present at the site. Additional archaeological research will be prudent to prevent potential loss.

Park Issues and Prescriptions

In February 2004, State Parks staff held a public workshop and met with representatives of government agencies, staff of the Makah and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes, and leaders of the Clallam Bay – Sekiu community. Through these meetings, participants identified a number of issues regarding resource management and park development and suggested potential measures to address them. It should be noted however that this information is preliminary – especially concerning management of river fisheries, wildlife, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, traditional cultural practice sites, and other park resources of interest to the Makah and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes. The agency will request formal consultation with both tribes as an integral part of decision making with respect to these issues.

Table 1: Natural Resource Issues

Issue	Approach
Collection of natural resource inventories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compile existing natural resource data from DNR's Natural Heritage Program, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Makah and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes to prioritize and collect necessary natural resource data• Seek assistance of Hoko River State Park Association (non-profit friends group) to coordinate volunteer natural resource inventory efforts• Work with Clallam County as it develops the critical areas element of its comprehensive plan• Collect anecdotal information from local flora/fauna enthusiasts, local chapters of Audubon Society, Native Plant Society, and like organizations
Interpretive approaches for natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop partnership with Lower Elwha Klallam staff and Makah Cultural and Research Center to coordinate on-site park interpretation and links to other related sites in the region• Prepare an interpretive master plan for the park• Propose ALEA grant to develop Little Hoko interpretive trail incorporating stream restoration work by Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
Management of Hoko/Little Hoko fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to work with Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and Makah Tribe to monitor Little Hoko salmon runs and to prescribe restoration/enhancement treatments as necessary• Seek grants and explore additional cooperative stream restoration/enhancement projects with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and Makah Tribe (e.g., State Parks Centennial - Hoko River Horse Pasture Restoration Project)
Management of elk Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with Tribes and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to prepare elk management plan
Access management/enforcement (e.g., ATVs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As part of initial park development projects, prepare a park access management plan including: education effort; "neighborhood watch" with NPS, USFS, private timber companies, and park neighbors; and local law enforcement• Consider establishing interlocal enforcement/SAR agreements with local law enforcement, Tribes, USFS, NPS, and other emergency service providers• Ensure uses permitted within the park are coordinated with other public land managers to avoid conflicting rules and provide a diversity of recreational experiences• Consult with Makah Tribe and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe to address issues of tribal access for traditional practices such as fishing, hunting, and gathering.

Long-Term Park Boundary (Property Acquisition/Surplus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider long-term acquisition of the Warnock and Tulloch properties through either fee or conservation/recreation easement to consolidate ownerships between Eagle Point and Hoyt properties • Consider long-term acquisition of the Birkholm/Schultz inholding for park housing and/or administrative area • Consider long-term acquisition/easements for trail corridors between all park properties • Consider acquisition/easements to consolidate and protect beachfront between Hoko and Sekiu Rivers • Consider acquisition/easements to link Little Hoko River riparian corridor to DNR properties to the south • Evaluate park properties not essential for park recreation and conservation purposes for possible disposal
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Table 2: Cultural Resource Issues

Issue	Approach
Inventory needs for cultural properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Makah Tribe and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe to explore cooperative efforts and agreements to curate archaeological artifacts recovered from Hoko River State Park (the Makah Tribe currently has an agreement with the State to curate archaeological artifacts collected from state lands) • Work with Makah and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes to verify and map recorded archaeological sites and to conduct additional archaeological surveys for areas along Hoko River near Cowan Ranch • Enlist Hoko River Association to collect oral histories related to Cowan Ranch area, grave sites, logging camp, military camps, and the Hoko/Ozette Valley • Work with Makah and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes to collect oral histories and other information connecting tribal history with the Cowan Ranch and Hoko River State Park • Consider completing cultural landscape inventories as part of historic preservation training exercise
Treatments for ranch structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct historic structures inventory for the Cowan Ranch area and determine appropriate treatments through preparation of a cultural resource management plan • Treatments should be limited to stabilization/preservation prior to completion of a cultural resource management plan as per agency policy • Propose capital project to stabilize both the barn and ranch house during the 2005-07 budget cycle • Consider rehabilitation of ranch area for use as interpretive center/museum, lodge, hostel, or other regional attraction

Treatments for cultural landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct cultural landscape inventory for all properties in Hoko River State Park and determine appropriate treatments through preparation of a cultural resource management plan • Treatments should be limited to stabilization/preservation prior to completion of a cultural resource management plan as per agency policy • Repair fencing, iron gates, water supply, power poles, wiring at ranch area consistent with historic preservation practices • Include tribal perspective in management of cultural landscapes
Interpretive approaches for cultural properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop partnership with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe staff and the Makah Cultural and Research Center to coordinate on-site park interpretation with links to other related sites in the region • Prepare a interpretive master plan for the park • Condition interpretation of pre-contact Native American history to ensure cultural sites are not at risk for vandalism
Collection of historical data/oral histories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and collect oral histories of both Cowan and tribal use of ranch and surrounding areas (Klallam and Makah) • Coordinate with Historical Society to record and catalogue Cowan Ranch-related photos, artifacts, and historic materials while ultimately seeking return and display of these materials
Tribal access to park properties for traditional cultural practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify needs and establish methods for providing tribal access to traditional cultural practice sites following formal tribal consultation
Park Naming and Honoring Cowan Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalize names for park areas within Hoko River State Park through more detailed planning • Recognize Inez Cowan at Port Angeles Commission meeting
Providing cultural/environmental education programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore requesting the Hoko-Cowan Association take a leadership role in providing educational opportunities for local school districts • Consider partnering with NPS to provide educational programs at the park through its existing Student Conservation Association program • Research regional/local educational programs and seek to provide opportunities that are not currently provided • Incorporate use of education programs to conduct fisheries-related monitoring on park streams
Tribal Scenic Byway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with WSDOT and tribes to ensure that park information, orientation, and interpretation are linked to National Scenic Byway and the Tribal Scenic Byway programs • Emphasize cultural resources interpretation along entire byway

Table 3: Recreational Development Issues

Issue	Approach
Trailhead development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose construction of a trailhead with vault toilet near the confluence of the Hoko and Little Hoko Rivers (apply for NOVA grant during 2004 cycle and 2005-07 capital funding) • Consider development of trailhead facilities at the Hoyt property in cooperation with WSDOT Scenic Byways Program • Consider long-term development of trailhead facilities at the Eagle Point and Hoko River Estuary properties • Consult with Makah Tribe and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe to address archeological as well as other natural and cultural resource issues related to siting and construction of prospective trailheads
Trail development and use management (hiking, biking, equestrian)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit initial trail development to pedestrian uses only prior to completion of a park-wide trail use and development plan • As part of future trail planning, emphasize shared-use hiking, cycling, equestrian use on railroad grades • Emphasize development of loop opportunities for all trail uses • Propose planned maintenance project to clear landslides along Eagle Point railroad grade (2005-07 cycle) • Consult with Makah Tribe and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe to address archeological as well as other natural and cultural resource issues related to routing, construction and maintenance of trails in potentially sensitive areas
Regional trails coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enlist State Parks' statewide trails coordinator to participate in Clallam Bay–Sekiu community trails planning and Clallam County regional trails planning efforts • As part of long-term trail development, seek to link park trail network with trail networks on other public lands as well as larger regional trail system (e.g., Sekiu/Clallam Bay spur of Discovery Trail)
Providing Access to swimming, fishing/fishing piers, saltwater, freshwater, other water-based activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider long-term development of restrooms with outdoor shower facilities at Hoyt Beach • Consider long-term designation/development of underwater parks along Strait of Juan de Fuca beaches • Consider long-term development of a fishing pier at Cowan Beach • Consider long-term development of ADA fishing access points (both salt and freshwater)
Providing camping opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that any camping development can sustain itself (will likely mean extension into convenience camping structures to extend season) while minimizing impacts to natural and cultural resources • Research (through business planning) appropriate niche for State Parks-provided camping opportunities – competition with private sector vs. creating tourism magnet to enhance private sector camping • Consider developing walk-in/backcountry camping areas

Providing Hoko River Estuary recreational opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider viewing areas and canoe/kayak launch for access to Hoko River Estuary • Consult with Makah Tribe and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe to address archeological as well as other natural and cultural resource issues related to potential development of river access points in the Hoko River Estuary.
Providing group-oriented facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider long-term development of group camping area as part of environmental education/interpretive programming • Consider long-term development of equestrian group camp • Consider long-term development of group “lodge” opportunity (perhaps as rehabilitation treatment for a ranch structure)
Providing sanitary facilities (restrooms, garbage receptacles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct restroom (at minimum CXTs) at all trailhead locations • Provide garbage service at all trailheads and consider use of parking fees or partnership with County to pay for this service • Emphasize “pack it out” approach in backcountry areas and areas without developed facilities • Work with Scenic Byway Program to establish a rest area along SR112 – potentially at the Hoyt property
Clallam Bay County Park Spit Access Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Clallam Bay – Sekiu Chamber of Commerce and Clallam County to hire a coastal geologist to assess river mouth and recommend most appropriate long-term access solution • Cooperate with current efforts by Clallam County and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe (unsure if Makah Tribe is participating directly in this effort) to seek funding from Salmon Recovery Funding Board to study the Clallam River and prescribe appropriate enhancements/restorations • Work closely with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to coordinate any access repair/construction projects • Consider acquisition of alternative accesses to Clallam Bay spit, if necessary
Providing local recreational amenities – sports fields, playgrounds, picnic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Parks will probably not pursue development of local recreational amenities; however, opportunities for partnerships between the agency and local parks departments should be explored
Administrative facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate Warnoch and Tullock properties for use as administrative areas (staff housing/maintenance) and pursue acquisition

Facilities maintenance and repair of storm damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose planned maintenance project to repair fencing, iron gates, water supply, power poles, wiring at ranch area consistent with historic preservation practices (address visitor/staff safety issues immediately) • Repair/provide temporary bridge on the Little Hoko road (consider combining with larger SRF Board grant project or ALEA trail project) • Propose planned maintenance project to clear landslides along Eagle Point railroad grade (2005-07 cycle) • Evaluate long-term sustainability/costs of grade at Eagle Point
Visitor safety/law enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide on-site ranger housing either in existing ranch house or new staff residence constructed somewhere in/near the park • Consider installation of pay phone at Cowan Ranch area • Explore mutual aid agreement with NPS, USFS, Clallam County Sheriff's Office, local volunteer fire district, and other local emergency service providers • Enhance coordination/cooperation with park neighbors to encourage reporting of non-designated/illegal activities in the park
Economic development coordination between state parks, local business community, and tribes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicit assistance of Clallam Bay – Sekiu Chamber of Commerce, Hoko River Association, and Makah and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes to develop park marketing materials, brochures, and web information
Park fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charge fees for parking only in improved trailhead parking areas consistent with agency rules • Parking fees need to be clarified/communicated between State Parks and tribes • Explore pre-payment of parking fees with Clallam County and local community to eliminate daily parking fee for visitors
Coordination with recreational user groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct outreach program to known, organized groups as part of long-term development planning effort for the park
Potential for community partnerships/coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop partnership with Clallam County, Makah and Lower Elwha Klallam Tribes, Clallam Bay – Sekiu Chamber of Commerce, and other local organizations to explore community-based development opportunities for Hoko River State Park
Extension/diversification of visitor use season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider long-term development of a range of convenience camping structures, cabins, and a lodge to extend the park's visitor use season

Next Steps

June 24, 2004 through July 16, 2004: Agency staff release this draft report for public comments.

June 2004: Agency submits capital budget items/grant requests for funding of resource stabilization and initial public access projects.

July 29, 2004: Agency staff incorporates public comments into a final report and releases it to the public.

August 12, 2004: Agency staff presents report to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission at its scheduled meeting in Port Angeles.

Fall 2005: Agency staff receives funding for design/permitting/construction of initial access and resource stabilization projects.

Undetermined date: Begin preparation of land classifications, management plan, master plan, and business plan to guide long-term park development.

Let us know what you think!

There are several ways for you to give us your thoughts on this project or to get more information. You may direct written correspondence and plan comments to Peter Herzog, the project's principal planner, c/o Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission P.O. Box 42668 Olympia, WA 98504-2668; e-mail Peter.Herzog@Parks.Wa.Gov ; or call him at (360) 902-8652.

For additional information you may also contact the Northwest Region Resource Steward, Ted Smith, at (360) 755-9231 Ted.Smith@Parks.Wa.Gov or Park Ranger, Bill Drath at (360) 963-2948 DRATHWA@aol.com, or drop by the Cowan Ranch Heritage Area.

We hope you find this process interesting and that you choose to remain actively involved in planning for the park. This is your park! With your help, we will hand this park down to our grandchildren as a lasting legacy and a treasure of which we can all be proud.